



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Arizona Department of Public Safety Offers Tips for Safe Driving in Winter Conditions

DPS Officer Quent Mehr will be available for media interviews on inclement weather driving tips today at 3 p.m. at the DPS headquarters building in Phoenix

Location: 2102 W. Encanto Blvd., Phoenix, AZ

With the recent series of winter storms crossing over Arizona many areas are experiencing hazardous driving conditions from wet roads to black ice. The Arizona Department of Public Safety offers the following tips for driving in winter conditions:

BEFORE THE TRIP:

1. Check the condition of your vehicle. Make sure the tires and brakes are in good condition and you have a full tank of gas.
2. Let others know of your travel plans.
3. Have extra food, blankets, and water in case of a break down or lengthy traffic delay.

DRIVING:

1. Be aware of changing road and weather conditions. Wet roads can quickly change to icy roads in bad weather. Listen to the radio for the latest in weather updates.
2. When driving in winter weather, SLOW DOWN. The maximum speed limit will not be the speed limit to drive on wet or icy roads. You should drive at a slower "reasonable and prudent speed".
3. Wet roads, or icy roads, can become slick and treacherous. SLOW DOWN.
4. During rain or snow your visibility is decreased. Drive with your lights on.
5. Do not tailgate! Traction is decreased on wet or icy roads and braking distances are greatly increased. Leave plenty of room between you and vehicles ahead of you.
6. When braking, apply brakes gently to avoid brakes locking up and skidding.
7. Watch out for collisions or broken down vehicles as people may be outside their vehicles. Watch out for any emergency vehicles which may be responding.
8. Be aware of your location, i.e. close by cities or towns, milepost markers. This will help emergency personnel find you if you are involved in a collision.
9. Watch out for snow plows. Give them plenty of room.

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